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EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO PRESENTS: OFFICE HOURS
Transforming The Museum Into A Holistic Work Of Art

NEW YORK, NY July 29, 2014- El Museo del Barrio, in collaboration with interdisciplinary artist Nicolás Dumit Estévez, is proud to launch, **OFFICE HOURS (OH)**, a series of actions that bring the concepts of creativity versus productivity face to face, as the various departments of the organization are encouraged to operate on a horizontal level within its own exhibition space. Estévez works with El Museo del Barrio's employees to co-generate proposals for interventions, workshops, and celebrations, through which both staff and visitors can come together to experience the museum from each other's perspectives and hence to re-shape its day-to-day as a collaborative endeavor.

Similarly, OH brings face to face the concepts of creativity versus productivity, as El Museo del Barrio's curators, administrators, guards, educators, operations personnel, finance employees, audiences, and artists are encouraged to work as play or to play as work - all of this as part of an the on-going performing of the day-to-day. OH conceives of El Museo as a holistic work of art; that is, a living artwork existing beyond the boundaries of the exhibition space and co-mingling with life.

"Working on *Office Hours (OH)* with El Museo del Barrio is pushing me to embrace the everyday in the context of art making to a point of no return, and to rethink museums as experimental sites for envisioning new ways to practice, perform and play with the day to day. " said Estévez.

An evolving project, OH currently encompasses the following actions: Back in Five Minutes (artist-in-residence program), Over the Table (portfolio review), En Familia: El Museo as Genealogy, El Museo As Classroom / City As School, Friends of Friends, and Creative Disruptions.

BACK IN FIVE MINUTES- Artists of Latin American or Caribbean descent living in New York City's five boroughs are offered a studio located within El Museo del Barrio's exhibition space. Selected participants, one per session, are invited



to generate a new body of work in the midst of what is customarily understood by El Museo and its visitors as an area allocated for the installation of finished pieces. Participants include Coco López, Antonia Pérez, Mauricio Arango, Alicia Grullón, Karina Aguilera Skvirsky, Ayana Evans, and Jessica Lagunas.

OVER THE TABLE - El Museo del Barrio's Curatorial team invites artists to register for one-on-one twenty-minute portfolio reviews. Over the Table offers art practitioners in different stages of their development the opportunity to engage in one-on-one discussions about their work or an upcoming project.

EN FAMILIA: EL MUSEO AS GENEALOGY is a "selfie" project where El Museo del Barrio's staff and all of those who make up this iconic cultural enclave, including artists who have exhibited, talked, performed or worked with the organization submit photos of themselves along with a brief personal statement. Estévez invites participants in this action to contemplate the possibility of imagining the unforeseen connections that may link them to each other beyond professional roles.

EL MUSEO AS CLASSROOM / CITY AS SCHOOL A mixed-media workshop for educators and community partners where educators from El Museo invite other educators to engage in discussion on the different elements of our institutional programs across the City. This initiative honors our founder Raphael Ortíz Montañez's emphasis on the pedagogical role of El Museo as an educational institution as well as the founder of City and Country School, Caroline Pratt, and her groundbreaking contributions to progressive education.

FRIENDS OF FRIENDS Estévez expands the creative ripple effect of "Office Hours" by inviting fellow colleagues, as well as artists in residence who are part of "Back in Five Minutes" (the residency program at El Museo) to generate their own activities, actions, performances, coffee breaks, talks, and workshops, and thus to have friends and friends of friends to contribute to the scope of the project.

CREATIVE DISRUPTION Estévez works hand in hand with El Museo's staff, volunteers and interns to co-generate ideas for performances, interventions, and actions that are tried out in the context of the workplace, and sometimes out in the streets. Creative Disruptions offers the space for the job-site to double as a locus where one's creative selves are allowed to surface and to be interpolated into one's 9-5 schedule.



ABOUT NICOLAS DUMIT ESTEVEZ

Nicolás Dumit Estévez, born 1967 in Santiago de los Treinta Caballeros, Dominican Republic, lives and works in the South Bronx. Estévez is an interdisciplinary artist who treads an elusive path that manifests itself performatively or through experiences where the quotidian and art overlap. He has exhibited at Madrid Abierto/ARCO, The IX Havana Biennial, PERFORMA, IDENSITAT, Prague Quadrennial, The Pontevedra Biennial, Dean Project, The Queens Museum, MoMA, Printed Matter, P.S. 122, Hemispheric Institute of Performance Art and Politics, Princeton University, The Institute for Art, Religion, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary, Provisions Library, El Museo del Barrio, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, The Center for Book Arts, Longwood Art Gallery/BCA, The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Franklin Furnace, and LMCC.

Estévez has received mentorship in art in everyday life from Linda Mary Montano, a historic figure in the performance art field. Montano and Estévez have collaborated on several performances. He has attended residencies at P.S. 1/MoMA, Yaddo and The MacDowell Colony. Publications include *Pleased to Meet You*, *Life as Material for Art and Vice Versa* (editor) and *For Art's Sake*.

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO:

El Museo del Barrio, New York's leading Latino cultural institution, welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of Latino, Caribbean, and Latin American cultures. Their richness is represented in El Museo's wide-ranging collections and critically acclaimed exhibitions, complemented by film, literary, visual and performing arts series, cultural celebrations, and educational programs.

For more information on El Museo del Barrio, please visit www.elmuseo.org.

To connect with El Museo del Barrio via Social Media, follows us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/elmuseo](https://www.facebook.com/elmuseo), and using @ElMuseo on Instagram and Twitter.

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